

# United States Department of the Interior

## Bureau of Land Management

Nevada State Office  
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Instruction Memorandum No. NV 2003-020  
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To: BLM Employees, Nevada

From: State Director, Nevada

Subject: Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Safety Policy

Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) are also known as Off Road Vehicles. This policy is designed to allow the safe use of OHVs by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employees whose duties require their use and to provide measures to reduce the hazards associated with the use of OHVs.

In accordance with BLM Manual Handbook 1112-1, Safety and Health Management, all personnel, to include volunteers, who are authorized to operate OHVs, will complete an OHV safety course. Training will include loading and unloading OHVs onto and out of transport vehicles or trailers. The training may be obtained through private industry or through a government agency. A copy of the course completion certificate, (i.e. ATV Safety Institute) or other proof of completion will be maintained by the respective BLM office. Form OF-346, U.S. Government Motor Vehicle Operator's Identification Card, may be used to document authorization and completion of training. A valid state operator's license is required for motorcycle use.

Passengers are not allowed to ride on All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) or motorcycles. All riders will use the following protective gear when riding OHVs:

- helmet (must be DOT, ANSI-90, or SNELL M-95 approved)
- goggles, face shield, or safety glasses
- gloves
- long sleeves
- long pants
- leather-type shoes or boots, over the ankle
- seat belts (where installed)

Appropriate safety features will be included in the specifications for purchase orders or lease agreements when new OHVs are purchased. Upon receipt of a new vehicle, an initial inspection will be made to determine that the vehicle is safe to ride. BLM owned OHVs will be maintained in a safe operating condition and will not be modified in such a way as to void any manufacturer's warranties. A trip plan or check-in/check-out notification will be filed before a rider departs from a field office. It is the operator's responsibility to inspect the vehicle prior to use and to report any unsafe conditions to the appropriate maintenance personnel.


During loading/unloading of OHVs, loading ramps will be securely attached to the trailer or vehicle in which the OHV is transported. Appropriate tie downs are to be used to secure the OHV during transport operations.

Operators will use established trails as much as possible and will operate OHVs in a safe manner. Anytime an OHV is operated on sand dunes, it is Nevada's BLM policy to display a whip flag. Vehicles will be parked in clear areas where possible, so that hot parts do not come into contact with brush or any source of ignition.

Any accident involving OHVs will be reported to the supervisor and entered into the DOI accident reporting database using the Safety Management Information System (SMIS). The web site for SMIS is [www.smis.doi.gov](http://www.smis.doi.gov). The license plate number of the vehicle involved will be included in the report in the vehicle description box.

Extra fuel containers carried on OHVs must comply with DOT specifications. If OHVs will be used in the application of herbicides/pesticides, a portable eye wash station must be available to operators. Riders transporting weed sprayers, or other shifting loads, will not ride on slopes exceeding 25 degrees. A risk assessment, considering rider abilities and vehicle capabilities, will be conducted before traversing steep slopes.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Griggs, State Safety Occupational and Health Manager, Nevada State Office, at 775-861-6405.

  
Robert V. Abbey